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### H.R. 1695

# The Reserve Component Retirement Equity Act



The retirement structure for members of the National Guard and Reserve remains flawed, despite the ever-increasing role that Guardsmen and Reservists play in ongoing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. I introduced this bill with Rep. Frank LoBiondo (R-NJ) to correct those inequities.

When first established in 1948, the Reserve Retirement System was intended to provide a modest supplement to an individual's civilian retirement in exchange for minimal "call-ups" for military-related service. Those times have

changed, and record numbers of Guard and Reserve personnel are serving in the types of multiple, extended deployments more commonly associated with their Active Duty counterparts. In the last decade, the Guard and Reserve have gone from a strategic reserve to an operational force and are a lynchpin of our military operations.

The Reserve Component Retirement Equity Act (H.R. 1695) would change the retirement benefit to match more closely the level of sacrifice and commitment being given by these individuals. Equally important, it would establish retirement age as consistent with other federal retirees.

**Endorsed by the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS), the Air Force Sergeants Association, National Association of Uniformed Services (NAUS), and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), this bill:**

- ❖ **Lowers the retirement age at which Reserve Component servicemembers can begin receiving their retirement pay from age 60 to age 55;**
- ❖ **Helps close the gap between the Active Duty and Reserve Component retirement age;**
- ❖ **Improves recruitment efforts, and;**
- ❖ **Restores equity to the men and women serving in the National Guard and Reserve.**

As our Reserve Component shoulders more of the burden overseas and continues to support our homeland defense and the domestic responses to natural and man-made disasters, we must ensure their sacrifices are equitably honored with the same benefits as their Active Duty counterparts.